

**From:** Ed Powell  
**To:** attorney.general@state.mn.us@inetgw  
**Date:** 11/23/01 2:20am  
**Subject:** Microsoft settlement - don't do it

I am writing to voice my opposition to the proposed settlement to the Microsoft antitrust case.

Quite simply, Microsoft has a stranglehold on the mainstream PC market. This is something that everyone in the computer industry has known for years, and our court system has determined this to be true.

What kind of message are we sending if Microsoft only receives a slap on the wrist for breaking the law? Are we saying that some people or entities are better than others? Our country was not founded on that concept, but instead on 'all men are created equal'. Someone guilty of breaking the law should face the full penalty of the law, no exceptions.

And in this case of breaking the law, Microsoft must be held accountable for their monopolistic practices, and must be punished as such that they cannot exercise their power for those purposes. From what I have read of the proposed settlement, there are no decisive changes to the way Microsoft does business.

Why not impose a moratorium on Microsoft against its purchase or merger with other companies? Absorbing companies in this way has been a tactic of theirs to stifle competition and release products under their own banner.

Why not impose a moratorium on Microsoft against releasing any new operating system or Internet products for a while? Give a chance for competition to make inroads against Microsoft's operating system monopoly?

I am very much opposed to Microsoft's continued dominance of the industry, and to the proposed settlement that does nothing to correct it.

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Ed Powell - "Meus Navis Aerius est Plena Anguillarum"  
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**CC:** Microsoft ATR